

## EDITORIAL

Every purposeful ornithologist has filing problems. Letters, scribbled notes, newspaper clippings, work sheets recording measurements and color comparisons, excerpts from notebooks—all these must be kept in order if they are to be useful.

Some folders in an 'active file' are not, admittedly, opened from the year's beginning to its end. This is not surprising in view of the fact that Black Rails keep themselves hidden most of the time and some correspondents do not correspond. Other folders, however, are consulted almost every day. Among the most remarkable of this category in our file are four which have been put away from time to time but refuse to become inactive. In one of these are explicit directions for loading shells, reaming out auxiliary barrels, repairing shotgun stocks, cutting wads, and knocking out old primers. That folder bears the name Semple, John B. In another is a sheaf of yellow sheets with scribblings concerning the subspecific identification of Mexican birds—references to type specimens examined in European museums, to personal observations in El Salvador, Sonora, and a hundred other places, to correspondence with Stresemann, Hellmayr and Berlioz. That folder bears the name van Rossem, A. J. A third holds letters both typewritten and long-hand outlining enough ornithological projects to keep a man busy for a lifetime, and with these effervescent suggestions amusing discussions of persons in the public eye, reminiscences brimming with good humor, and references to happy hunting grounds full of marshes. This one bears the name Peet, Max Minor.

The fourth does not hold much. But the letters there, all long-hand, are so full of vigor, good spirit and encouragement that reading them is a tonic. The folder bears the name Nunnemacher, Gertrude A.

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This issue of *The Wilson Bulletin* is a memorial to Gertrude Nunnemacher. Those who made possible the memorial were her husband, Henry J. Nunnemacher, and the following members of the Bird Group of the Milwaukee City Club: Myrtle Baer, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Balsom, Mrs. A. C. Bromm, Mrs. F. Bunkfeldt, Mrs. H. K. Coen, Mrs. M. Cutler, Mrs. C. R. Decker, Jr., Mary Donald, Susan Drake, Mrs. J. Freede, Mrs. L. B. Goodrich, Mrs. M. D. Hartley, Dr. Anna Hehn, Mrs. Blanch Hibbert, Mrs. W. F. Jackson, Mrs. T. L. Kelley, Mrs. Bruno Kroetz, Mrs. Hugo Kroetz, Mrs. C. A. Lind, Mrs. Lillian Logemann, Isabel Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Paulsen, Mrs. Gustave Reuss and daughter, Mrs. Carl Schwendener, Mrs. Amelia Simmons, Mrs. L. C. P. Smith, Helene Stoll, Leo Tiefenthaler, Dr. Pearl Thompson and Mrs. E. R. Weber.

The Bird Group of the Milwaukee City Club had its beginnings in late April, 1926. An informal body at first, it sponsored several spring and summer field trips and some discussion meetings. In November, 1926, it was formally organized and membership was thrown open to both members and non-members of the City Club. Mrs. Nunnemacher was elected the first Secretary. On May 27, 1927, the first 'May Day Census' was taken, a total of 85 bird species being seen by those participating. This census was to become an annual event. On Mrs. Nunnemacher's return from Europe in 1930 she was elected Vice-Chairman, an office she held until 1941, when she became Chairman. The Group celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary on November 18, 1951. There are now 25 members, seven of whom were active members in 1926.

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John G. Williams, of the Coryndon Museum, Nairobi, Kenya Colony, East Africa, has very generously offered his assistance to any member of the The Wilson Ornithological Club fortunate enough to visit Africa. Because of Mr. Williams' extensive field experience in East Africa, he can give excellent advice on safari itineraries, localities where special birds may be seen or collected, and similar matters.

Mr. Williams has almost completed a monograph on "The Sunbirds of Kenya Colony." This work contains an illustrated key to the genera of sunbirds recorded from Kenya Colony, and discusses the distribution, field characters, and habits of all species and subspecies found there. It will be illustrated by ten color-plates; by many photographs of sunbirds and their nests and eggs; and by distribution maps. The publishers, Longmans, Green & Co., Ltd., of Nairobi, are much interested in finding out how large a sale may be expected in America. Persons desiring more information about the book should write Dr. Berger or Mr. Williams.

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The many friends of Helmuth O. Wagner, a member of our Club since 1945, will be glad to know that his interest in Mexican birds continues. A little over a year ago he moved from Mexico City to Bremen, Germany, there to become the Director of the Museum für Natur-, Völker- und Handelskunde; but he has recently finished a life history of the White-eared Hummingbird, a species he saw much of in México, and a paper on the Cracidae of Chiapas. Dr. Wagner is sorely missed on this side of the Atlantic. While residing in México he often helped friends from the United States in finding their way about; joined them in their field work; or visited remote areas in order to obtain specimens needed by them. His knowledge of field techniques, his ability as a linguist, and above all his abounding energy and good spirit made him an invaluable ally, no matter what the problem or occasion.

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A book, to be compiled from the many writings of Althea R. Sherman, for much of her life a devoted member of our Club, will contain certain articles which first appeared in *The Wilson Bulletin*. The book, to be titled "Birds of an Iowa Dooryard," will be compiled by Fred J. Pierce, the editor and publisher of *Iowa Bird Life*.

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The Hamilton Nature Club, of Hamilton, Ontario, has been granted permission to reprint in their journal, *Wood Duck*, "The Persecution of Predaceous Birds," by William H. Elder and Charles M. Kirkpatrick, an article which appeared in a recent issue of *The Wilson Bulletin*. The Club, whose president is Robert O. Elstone, is to be commended for this lively interest in protection of the birds of prey.

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Bruce Campbell, Secretary of the British Trust for Ornithology, informs us that the address and registered office of the Trust is now 2 King Edward Street, Oxford, England. Certain publications of the Trust have recently been reviewed in our *Bulletin*.

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A law now in force in Connecticut forbids the killing of any hawk or owl except when it is caught in the act of molesting poultry. This is a marked improvement over the old, weak law that left most birds of prey unprotected. Since so few can tell one hawk from another, the law seems better than one which designates certain species as harmful and therefore unprotected. The dangers of omitting protection for certain species of predators, or of trying to reduce their numbers, are well illustrated by the results of the Pennsylvania bounty on the Goshawk some years ago, when a high proportion of the birds presented for bounty payment were not Goshawks—or even accipiters.

The passage of this law should prove encouraging to conservationists in other states, not only the six which have no protective laws whatever for birds of prey, but also the many which provide incomplete legal protection. Connecticut is not a state where in the past all local groups interested in conservation in general and birds in particular have been closely organized for common action. After *Audubon Magazine* mentioned the scant protection afforded birds of prey in Connecticut, the Westport Audubon Society, under the enthusiastic leadership of Mrs. Harry Long, introduced a bill and notified conservation groups all over the state of the need for support. The combination of a sound measure and this enthusiasm proved effective.

The new law does not of itself guarantee protection for birds of prey in Connecticut. There

were no points in the state, apparently, at which concentrations of migrating hawks furnished regular targets for gunners—as they once did at Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania. The birds have been killed all over the state, in small numbers on any one day, making enforcement of the new law more difficult than it would be at hawk concentration points. From now on, however, fewer owls will be killed merely because their calls keep someone awake, and taxidermists should no longer handle dozens of trophies for the mantelpiece. However, the type of hunter who, out of ignorance or boredom, shoots cormorants from a duck blind, is still a menace to all birds of prey. As discussed in the June issue of *The Wilson Bulletin* (pp. 138-140), protective statutes mean little unless the general public is sympathetic, and the larger part of our task in Connecticut remains to be done.—E. Alexander Bergstrom.

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The organization of a group to promote zoölogical studies in the New World tropics is well under way at Ann Arbor, Michigan. To be known as "The Foundation for Neotropical Research," this organization hopes soon to begin limited subsidization of both technical and semi-popular projects, not necessarily limited to birds, in the American tropics. Funds toward this objective are already accumulating through the advance sale of a limited edition of paintings of Mexican birds soon to be published. More detailed information from the new Foundation, whose present headquarters are the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, may be expected in the near future.

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*The Wilson Bulletin* color plate fund has continued to grow in recent months in a gratifying manner. The most important augmentation was brought about by the auction of original bird drawings and paintings held at the Davenport, Iowa, meeting, at which exactly four hundred dollars came into the fund. The Club is deeply grateful to the bird artists who generously contributed their work: W. J. Breckenridge, R. P. Grossenheider, F. L. Jaques, O. J. Murie, R. T. Peterson, and G. M. Sutton; to Robert M. Mengel, Chairman of our Illustrations Committee, who managed the affair so well; to Dwain Warner and others who proved themselves so able as auctioneers; and to Jane Mengel and Jean Tordoff, who displayed the pictures so decoratively. A matter of regret is that several pictures sent on by T. M. Shortt, to whom we extend our thanks, did not arrive in time. Worthy of special mention also is Hazel Bradley, of Jackson, Michigan, who contributed substantially to the fund after failing to obtain a single picture in the vigorous bidding. We hope that such auctions will continue to be a feature of our meetings; besides helping with the color plates, they enable all members to obtain attractive originals for their own permanent enjoyment.

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In June, 1951, the first five Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fellowships were awarded by the American Museum of Natural History. The amount distributed was \$1950, and the recipients and their projects were: 1. Richard B. Fischer, Cornell University. A study, based upon banded birds, of the reproductive behavior of the Chimney Swift in central New York State. 2. Byron F. Harrell, University of Minnesota. Faunal and ecological investigations of bird-life in southern Tamaulipas, México. 3. Owen A. Knorr, Colorado College. Life history studies of the Northern Black Swift in the Rocky Mountains. 4. Mrs. Robert Schultz, University of Washington. Continuation of a study of the life history of the Glaucous-winged Gull. 5. David K. Wetherbee, Clark University. The pterylosis of North American birds.

Additional fellowships may be awarded in the spring of 1952. In general, student investigators will be given preference over candidates already possessing wide prestige. Applicants should clearly state their problems and their qualifications and be sponsored by one or more of their professors. Applications should be addressed to the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Committee, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York 24, New York. Applications should be received not later than January 31, 1952, in order that decisions may be made well in advance of the summer vacation period.

The Michigan Audubon Society has blazed an important trail. Realizing that nature counsellors in summer camps often need to know more about nature than they do, the Society instituted, this past summer, a Nature Counsellors' camp. The week of June 17 to 22 (just before the opening of most summer camps) and Camp Mahn-Go-Tah-See, near Hale, Michigan, were selected as the time and place. Four members of the Society, all teachers, made up the staff. One of the four, Homer D. Roberts, the Society's President, acted as Director. The others were Almeda Boulton and Wilson Club Life Members Hazel Bradley and H. Lewis Batts.

Enrollment came about through contact with Y.M.C.A. camp directors and the Michigan Campers' Association. Nineteen camps sent representatives, paying their expenses. Other persons attended, paying their own way. The counsellors, divided into groups, attended half-day outdoor sessions, studying birds, insects, minerals, weather, plants, and water-life. Evening sessions were devoted to stars, conservation laws, and nature games. There were three early morning bird-walks.

Plans for another such camp in June, 1952, are already under way. The Society is to be congratulated upon seeing so clearly how this great work may be a means of spreading nature education, and therefore of sound conservation concepts, to countless young people in Michigan.

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In the death, on June 1, 1951, of Southgate Yeaton Hoyt the cause of ornithological education lost a devoted ally and our Club an unusual member. Born January 13, 1913, in Baltimore, 'South' was interested all his life in the imparting of biological knowledge. As an undergraduate at Washington and Lee; as an assistant to William Beebe in Bermuda in 1935; as a visitor to Europe in 1938 (he attended the International Ornithological Congress at Rouen, France, that year); as director of nature study at the Cold Spring Harbor Biological Laboratory in the summers of 1941, 1947, 1948, and 1950; and as a member of the Cornell University and Sampson College faculties, he was interested primarily in teaching. In the spring of 1942 he married Sally Foresman. That year he began 42 months of service with the Army Medical Corps. In 1945 he returned to Cornell. On completing a study of the Pileated Woodpecker in 1948 he was awarded the Ph.D. degree. In 1949 and 1950 he was especially active in teaching youngsters about birds. Many local schools listened regularly to his radio programs. His refusal to complain, despite his painful illness, was a marvel to all who knew him.

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The Club's Research Committee has voted to award the Edward L. Chalif Grant for Bird-Work in México to Byron E. Harrell, who is studying the ecology of the Rancho del Cielo forestlands in southwestern Tamaulipas. Mr. Harrell and Dwain W. Warner, Curator of Birds at the Minnesota Museum of Natural History, left for Mexico in November.

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The Local Committee for the thirty-third Annual Meeting of our Club at Gatlinburg, Tennessee is composed of Arthur L. Stupka, Chairman, Albert F. Ganier, Joseph C. Howell and James T. Tanner.

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The editors are grateful to the following for assistance in preparing for publication the material presented in this issue: William H. Allen, Burton L. Baker, William L. Brudon, Esther Byers, Theodore H. Hubbell, William A. Lunk, Rogers McVaugh, James L. Peters, Haven H. Spencer, Kenneth J. Starks, Charles F. Walker and Albert Wolfson. Realizing that this issue of the *Bulletin* is their last, they take this opportunity to thank especially Elsa Hertz, who has, during their tenure as editors, re-typed literally hundreds of pages of manuscript so as to give them clean copy; William Lunk, who has given edited manuscripts a final going-over just before their being sent to the printer; J. Van Tyne, who has furnished lists of additions to the Club Library; William Brudon, who has 'sharpened up' diagrams with his expert brush; and Betty and Powell Cottrille, who have given financial aid from time to time.